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State of Wisconsin



OFFICE OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

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CRIME AND ARRESTS  
IN WISCONSIN  
1989 PRELIMINARY REPORT

WISCONSIN UNIFORM CRIME  
REPORTING PROGRAM  
APRIL 1990

## Executive Summary

1. Overall crime increased by 5.2% in 1989, caused by increases in all crime categories except aggravated assault.
2. The increase of 8.2% in adults arrested for total Index crimes was due to increases in arrests of adults for each of the eight Index crimes.
3. The increase of 9.4% in juveniles arrested for all Index crimes was due to increases in arrests of juveniles for each of the eight Index crimes except arson and burglary.
4. Clearance rates increased for each Index offense except that of theft which remained the same as in 1988. The violent crime clearance rate of 59.9% represents the highest such clearance rate since 1978.
5. While reported violent crime has increased by 9.4 percent during the past five years, reported property crime has increased by 5.9 percent.
6. Arrest trends for adults and juveniles have been very different during the past five years. While the number of adults arrested for Index crimes has increased by 22.2 percent since 1985, juvenile arrests have increased only 1.2 percent.
7. The total amount of property stolen increased by 25.9 percent in 1989. In addition, the percentage of stolen property which was recovered increased from 36.5 percent to 40 percent in 1989.
8. While the increase in total and property crime was greater in Wisconsin than in the Midwest and the entire United States, the increase in violent crime was somewhat less than that experienced by the Midwest and the United States.
9. During 1989 the violent crime rate in Wisconsin was two to three times less than corresponding rates for the Midwest and the United States. Property and Total crime rates in Wisconsin were ten to fifteen percent less than Midwest rates and about twenty-five percent less than rates in the United States.

## A. Introduction

This report summarizes crime and arrests in Wisconsin for 1989 and compares the figures with those of past years. All 1989 figures are **estimates** based upon nearly complete reporting from 288 law enforcement agencies throughout Wisconsin. The complete report on these crime and arrest data will be published in July, 1990.

## B. Comparison of 1988 and 1989 Figures

Table 1 compares reported Index offenses in 1988 to those of 1989.

**TABLE 1**  
ESTIMATED INDEX OFFENSES REPORTED  
TO WISCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES<sup>1</sup>

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Murder	145	176	+21.4%
Forcible Rape	950	989	+5.2%
Robbery	3,254	3,660	+12.5%
Aggravated Assault	6,078	6,016	-1.0%
<b>TOTAL VIOLENT OFFENSES</b>	<b>10,427</b>	<b>10,841</b>	<b>+4.0%</b>
Burglary	35,373	35,686	+0.9%
Theft	133,838	140,019	+4.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	13,043	16,151	+23.8%
Arson	1,306	1,345	+3.0%
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY OFFENSES</b>	<b>183,560</b>	<b>193,201</b>	<b>+5.2%</b>
<b>TOTAL INDEX CRIMES</b>	<b>193,987</b>	<b>204,042</b>	<b>+5.2%</b>

The increase of 5.2% in overall crime was caused by increases in all crime categories except aggravated assault. The relatively sharp increases in murder, robbery, and motor vehicle theft should be noted.

<sup>1</sup> Data in this and subsequent tables are estimates based on data from over 99 percent of reporting jurisdictions. Data may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 2 compares the number of adult arrests during 1988 and 1989.

**TABLE 2**  
ESTIMATED ADULT ARRESTS REPORTED  
BY WISCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Murder	161	285	+77.0%
Forcible Rape	472	523	+10.8%
Robbery	929	957	+3.0%
Aggravated Assault	3,601	4,372	+21.4%
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT OFFENSES</b>	<b>5,163</b>	<b>6,137</b>	<b>+18.9%</b>
Burglary	3,038	3,380	+11.2%
Theft	22,870	23,729	+3.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,398	1,883	+34.7%
Arson	186	205	+10.2%
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS FOR PROPERTY OFFENSES</b>	<b>27,492</b>	<b>29,197</b>	<b>+6.2%</b>
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS FOR INDEX OFFENSES</b>	<b>32,655</b>	<b>35,334</b>	<b>+8.2%</b>
<b>ARRESTS FOR ALL OTHER OFFENSES</b>	<b>203,315</b>	<b>226,252</b>	<b>+11.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL ADULT ARRESTS</b>	<b>235,970</b>	<b>261,586</b>	<b>+10.8%</b>

The increase of 8.2% in adults arrested for all Index crimes was due to increases in arrests of adults for each of the eight Index crimes.

"Other offenses" which showed substantial increases in the number of adult arrests include simple assault, drug law violations, liquor law violations and disorderly conduct. The increases in adults arrested for aggravated assault, simple assault, and disorderly conduct likely reflect the impact of mandatory arrests in domestic violence situations.

Table 3 compares the number of juvenile arrests during 1988 and 1989.

**TABLE 3**  
ESTIMATED JUVENILE ARRESTS REPORTED  
BY WISCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Murder	14	45	+214.3%
Forcible Rape	121	137	+13.2%
Robbery	407	434	+6.6%
Aggravated Assault	609	816	+34.0%
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT OFFENSES</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>+24.3%</b>
Burglary	3,435	3,362	-2.1%
Theft	17,996	19,256	+7.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,182	3,078	+41.1%
Arson	301	295	-2.0%
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS FOR PROPERTY OFFENSES</b>	<b>23,914</b>	<b>25,991</b>	<b>+8.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS FOR INDEX OFFENSES</b>	<b>25,065</b>	<b>27,422</b>	<b>+9.4%</b>
ARRESTS FOR STATUS OFFENSES*	27,502	27,547	+0.2%
ARRESTS FOR ALL OTHER OFFENSES	36,392	38,547	+5.9%
<b>TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS</b>	<b>88,959</b>	<b>93,516</b>	<b>+5.1%</b>

\* Status offenses include liquor law violations, curfew/loitering laws, and runaways.

The increase of 9.4% in juveniles arrested for all Index crimes was due to increases in arrests of juveniles for each of the eight Index crimes except arson and burglary.

"Other offenses" which showed substantial increases in the number of juvenile arrests include simple assault, weapons laws, and disorderly conduct.

Table 4 compares the clearance rates for Index offenses for 1988 and 1989. The clearance rates are rounded off to the nearest percent except for the Violent, Property and Total rates.

**TABLE 4**  
**ESTIMATED CLEARANCE RATES**  
**FOR INDEX OFFENSES**

<u>Offense</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Murder	80%	82%
Forcible Rape	63%	67%
Robbery	30%	33%
Aggravated Assault	65%	74%
<b>TOTAL VIOLENT</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>59.9%</b>
Burglary	15%	16%
Theft	24%	24%
Motor Vehicle Theft	25%	26%
Arson	30%	31%
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>22.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL INDEX</b>	<b>23.8 %</b>	<b>24.3 %</b>

Clearance rates increased for each Index offense except that of theft which remained the same as in 1988. The violent crime clearance rate of 59.9% represents the highest such clearance rate since 1978.

### C. Five Year Trends in Crime and Arrests

Table 5 together with Graphs 1 and 2 show trends in reported offenses and arrests in Wisconsin during the past five years.

**TABLE 5**

**WISCONSIN CRIME AND ARRESTS, 1985 - 1989**

**PRELIMINARY STATEWIDE INDEX OFFENSES\***

<u>OFFENSES</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change 1985 to 1989</u>
Violent	9,912	12,360	11,989	10,427	10,841	+9.4%
Property	182,450	184,347	189,036	183,560	193,201	+5.9%
Total	192,362	196,707	201,025	193,987	204,042	+6.1%

#### ADULT ARRESTS

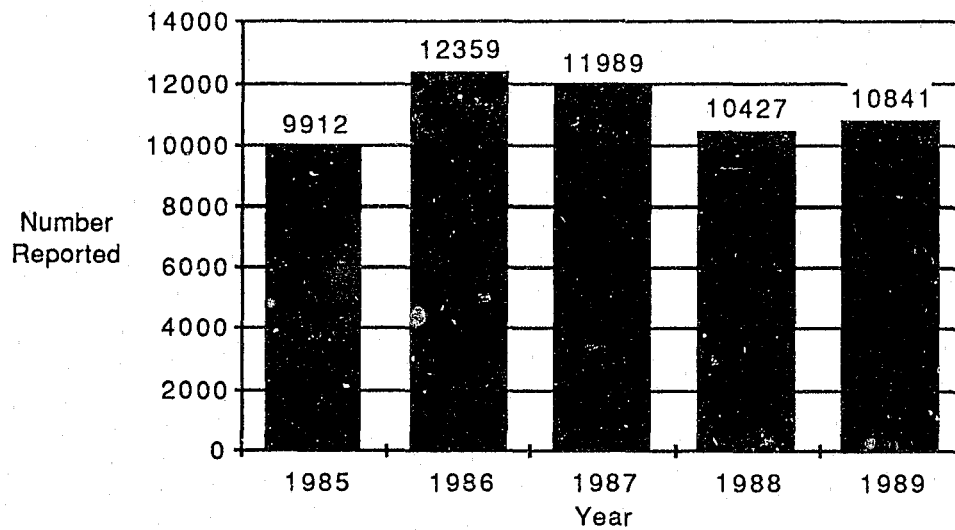
Violent	3,953	4,767	5,487	5,163	6,137	+55.2%
Property	24,966	25,617	27,854	27,492	29,197	+16.9%
Total	28,919	30,384	33,341	32,655	35,334	+22.2%

#### JUVENILE ARRESTS

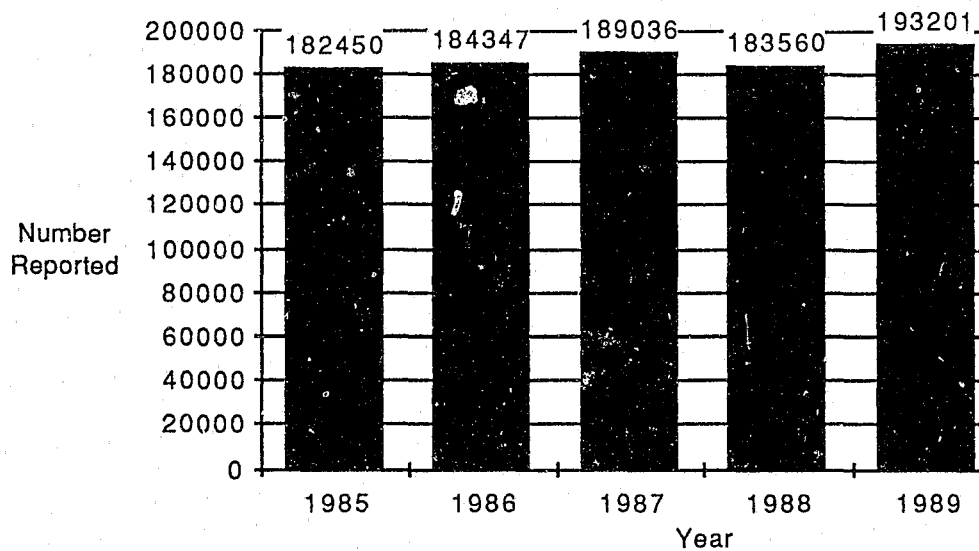
Violent	1,493	1,419	1,305	1,151	1,431	-4.2%
Property	25,593	24,988	24,107	23,914	25,991	+1.6%
Total	27,086	26,407	25,412	25,065	27,422	+1.2%

\* Index offenses include the four violent crimes of homicide, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault together with the four property crimes of burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

Graph 1: Violent Offenses



Graph 2: Property Offenses



While reported violent crime has increased by 9.4 percent during the past five years, reported property crime has increased by 5.9 percent.

Arrest trends for adults and juveniles have been very different during the past five years. While the number of adults arrested for Index crimes has increased by 22.2 percent since 1985, juvenile arrests have increased only 1.2 percent.



### D. Property Stolen and Recovered

Table 6 shows the value of property stolen and recovered during both 1988 and 1989.

Table 6: Property Stolen and Recovered, 1988 and 1989

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount Stolen</u>	<u>Amount Recovered</u>	<u>Percent Recovered</u>
1988	\$100,958,609	\$36,869,702	36.5%
1989	\$127,155,092	\$50,804,387	40.0%

The total amount of property stolen increased by 25.9 percent in 1989. In addition, the percentage of stolen property which was recovered increased from 36.5 percent to 40 percent in 1989.

### E. Offense Rates

Table 7 shows changes in the number of offenses over the past two years. The jurisdictions compared are Wisconsin, the Midwest, and the entire United States. (Note: the Midwest includes the twelve states of Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

Table 7: Changes in Reported Offenses - 1988 to 1989

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Total Index Crime</u>	<u>Violent Crime</u>	<u>Property Crime</u>
United States	+3%	+5%	+2%
Midwest	+2%	+5%	+2%
Wisconsin	+5.2%	+4%	+5.2%

While the increase in total and property crime was greater in Wisconsin, the increase in violent crime was somewhat less than that experienced by the Midwest and the entire United States.

Table 8 shows the effect of these changes in reported crime on the crime rates of these jurisdictions. Crime rates are used to permit comparison among jurisdictions with different population levels and consist of the number of reported crimes per 100,000 residents. The 1989 figures for the United States and the Midwest are estimates based upon preliminary data.

Table 8: Crime per 100,000 Residents - 1989

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Total Index Crime</u>	<u>Violent Crime</u>	<u>Property Crime</u>
United States	5,738	662	5,076
Midwest	4,935	531	4,404
Wisconsin	4,195	223	3,972

During 1989 the violent crime rate in Wisconsin was two to three times less than corresponding rates for the Midwest and the United States. Property and Total crime rates in Wisconsin were ten to fifteen percent less than Midwest rates and about twenty-five percent less than rates in the United States.